

Freedom of Information request 2015-513

Date received 9 February 2015

Date of response 30 April 2015

Information request

Under the freedom of information act, I request the number of people who are currently claiming disability benefits from a postcode that begins with E8 or E9, who cite alcohol misuse, or addiction as their main reason for claiming incapacity benefits.

If the cost has not yet been exceeded, please provide the total amount of benefits paid in the past two financial years (including this one that is yet to finish) to incapacity benefit claimants who have a postcode beginning with E8 or E9 and who cited alcohol misuse or addiction as their main reason for claiming benefits. If it is more cost effective, please only refer to figures from the past quarter.

If the cost limit has not yet been exceeded please provide the number of people currently claiming incapacity benefits who live in an area that begins with the postcode E8 or E9.

DWP response

In response to your first and third questions, the total number of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) claimants in the E8 and E9 postcode areas, as well as those that have as their main disabling condition alcohol misuse, can be found in the table below.

Please ensure you read the notes before using and interpreting this data.

**The figures supplied are derived from unpublished information and have not been quality assured to National Statistics or Official Statistics publication standard.
They should therefore be treated with caution.**

Claimants of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) and those with alcohol misuse as a main disabling condition in the E8 or E9 postcode areas: May 2014

| Benefit | Caseload | |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------|
| | All Conditions | Condition: Alcohol Misuse |
| ESA | 4,220 | 100 |
| IB/SDA | 880 | 20 |

Source: DWP 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS), National Benefits Database

Notes

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data provided is as at May 2014, which is the latest data available at the time of the request.
3. ESA replaced IB/SDA for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Causes of incapacity are based on the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, published by the World Health Organisation.
5. Under the Employment Support Allowance regime, new claimants have to undergo the Work Capability assessment. From April 2011 Incapacity Benefit recipients also began to undertake this assessment. The medical condition recorded on the claim form does not itself confer entitlement to Incapacity Benefit or Employment Support Allowance. So, for example, a decision on entitlement for a customer claiming Incapacity Benefit on the basis of alcoholism would be based on their ability to carry out the range of activities assessed by the Work Capability Assessment, or on the effects of any associated mental health problems. Please also note that where someone has more than one diagnosis or disabling condition, only the predominant one is currently recorded.

In response to your second question, benefit expenditure for financial years 2012-13 and 2013-14 for ESA and IB/SDA in postcode areas E8 and E9 is shown in the tables below.

Benefit Expenditure for ESA and IB/SDA, by main disabling condition of alcohol misuse, 2012-13 and 2013-14, postcode areas E8 and E9

| Benefit | Expenditure (£m) | | | |
|---------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| | 2012/13 | | 2013/14 | |
| | All Conditions | Condition: Alcohol Misuse | All Conditions | Condition: Alcohol Misuse |
| ESA | 12.1 | 0.3 | 19.9 | 0.4 |
| IB/SDA | 3.2 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 |

Source: DWP Statistical and Accounting data.

Notes:

1. DWP published expenditure information is based on full financial year data, full year data for 2014/15 is not yet available. We have supplied the latest two full years data that is available (2012/13 and 2013/14).